

HAMILTON METRO

THURSDAY
AUGUST 22, 1996

SUNNY, HOT
High 90, Low 70
Details/A2

25 Cents

The Times

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY

FOREIGN HOLDINGS
Reform Party candidate Ross Perot
has \$450M in overseas bonds A13

FEELING MAGICAL
Thunder magic number at 2 for
clinching EL South title B1

TKR to bounce Hamilton station from cable slot

By JEFF SAGNIH HOLLENDONNER
Staff Writer

HAMILTON — The township's local television station, WZBN, is getting pushed out of its current time slot by TKR Cable Co. to make way for the Fox Network 24-hour news show.

But WZBN officials vow it won't happen without a fight.

"This will definitely put us out of business," WZBN president Greg Zanoni said yesterday. "But we're going to fight with everything we have."

TKR plans to cut WZBN's broadcast from 24-hours-a-day on Channel 25 to about one hour on Channel 8, the cable company's local program channel. WZBN sells advertising throughout the 24-hour day, Zanoni said. Without that advertising, the station would go bankrupt in short

order, he said.

"It would be impossible for us to generate enough revenue to support a news crew and keep the station on the air," Zanoni said. "We're looking for public support to show them this is a channel the public wants. If the people want it, TKR should put it on."

TKR's decision comes four months after TKR won approval from the Board of Public Utilities to be the

exclusive cable provider for Hamilton's 80,000 residents.

The township council approved the 10-year TKR contract in January.

Zanoni said the station plans to sue TKR, if necessary, to keep the station's airtime intact.

"We have a contract with TKR," Zanoni said. "We built everything on that contract. We are talking to our attorneys to see what can be done."

THE CONTRACT explicitly says TKR will carry WZBN in any franchise agreement, Zanoni said, so long as WZBN provides a significant amount of local programming of interest to the customers of TKR.

TKR still has not officially informed WZBN of the switch, Zanoni said, nor offered any explanation. He found out when a customer showed him an insert in a monthly billing that gave notice of the change.

"We're not sure why they're taking us off," Zanoni said. "They haven't said we're doing a good job or a bad job. They haven't said anything."

Zanoni said he was willing to change the station's format by adding programs if that is what TKR wants. He said some 50 percent of the people in the county watch

• see CABLE, A8

Schools getting crowded

Enrollment swelling
in N.J., study finds

Going with the flow



School chief leaving city

Venable to announce retirement

free man while he appeals jail sentence for driving pending license, police offi-

Morgan prepares to appeal on to a Mercer County Superior judge, Trenton Public rector James Waldron said. The court is reviewing Morgan to determine whether to keep his job.

l, who has been on the bench since the spring of 1995, was sentenced Wednesday by a Ewing municipal court judge for being caught driving with a suspended license 6, police said.

obviously concerned with

by a Ewing municipal court judge for being caught driving with a suspended license June 6, police said.

the finding of his guilt," Waldron said. "I feel that police officers and firefighters and public safety officials should be held to a high standard of conduct.

"Driving with a suspended license is not appropriate, and neither is having a suspended license to begin with."

Waldron said that due to the con-

summer concerning the Trenton Police Department and driving infractions.

Trenton Patrolman Ka-El Damone Jordan had his driver's license in Kansas suspended because he failed to pay a speeding ticket that was issued on Aug. 8, 1994, said Sheila Walker, a spokeswoman for the Kansas Department of Revenue.

Because New Jersey and Kansas have an agreement to share and transfer driver records and penalty points, Jordan's New Jersey license was also invalidated, a spokeswoman with the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles said.

Jordan has yet to complete his probationary first year on the force.

source and composition of the waste have all changed," Wolfe said.

Representatives of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network submitted written comments noting that the

the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

"Based on what I have heard today, I don't see why we can't meet that date," O'Sullivan said.

Freeholders express support for WZBN

TRENTON — The Mercer County Freeholders last night lent their support to WZBN, a local television station getting pushed out of its current time slot by TKR Cable Co.

The cable company is making way for a Fox Network 24-hour news show by cutting WZBN's broadcast from 24-hours-a-day on Channel 25 to about one hour on Channel 8.

The freeholders passed a resolution supporting the continuation of the 24-hour program and urging TKR Cable to keep the WZBN contract in tact.

Board members cited the television company's contribution to the community, especially its Mercer's Most Wanted show which broadcasts the names and faces of wanted

criminals.

"That spot is very good for the community," said Board President Anthony Carabelli. "I think every opportunity that program has to air increases the opportunity of apprehending folks that need to be apprehended."

In other business last night the freeholders adopted a resolution petitioning the governor and state legislators to review and enact revisions in the state school busing limits.

The board joins local towns in arguing that the state should consider the safety of school routes, not just distance, in determining which students get bused to school.

' named to Dem platform committee

Jersey State Democratic Committee at its statewide convention June 1996.

Ponder said she is honored to represent Princeton and New Jersey at the national convention.

A great opportunity to participate in the development of national policy and an important guide for the Democratic party will govt Tuck-Ponder.

As one of only 120 mayors nationwide to participate in the convention, Tuck-Ponder will join the National Conference of Democratic Mayors in a variety of convention activities.

These include a convention caucus scheduled for Monday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Chicago Hilton.

Tuck-Ponder has also been recruited to videotape a variety of convention activities by News 12 New Jersey.

She will carry a portable video camera and compile a "convention journal" which will be broadcast on that channel on Aug. 30.

Tuck-Ponder is currently serving as township mayor for the second year. She is seeking a second term on the township committee this fall.

Tuck-Ponder is an attorney who is currently employed as the president of Ponder Literary Properties in New Brunswick.

Protesters support all-news station

By KIM HABAN

The Trentonian

HAMILTON — Area cable subscribers rallied outside the TKR offices yesterday afternoon to protest a move that will force WZBN, the 24-hour local news channel, out of business.

Chants of "ZBN, ZBN" coming from about 30 protesters could be heard inside the cable company's lobby, where TKR officials stressed the value of local programming and insisted ZBN could survive under the change.

TKR's plan is to move WZBN from Channel 25 to Channel 8 and cut its broadcasting time almost 90 percent by allowing the station three half-hour slots.

The FOX News network is slated to take ZBN's slot beginning Oct. 8.

Right now, WZBN broadcasts 24 hours a day with a local newscast every half hour between 10 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. during the week.

During the off hours and on weekends, WZBN broadcasts an all-news program with national and international coverage.

The station, with eight employees, sells advertising for the entire 24-hour time slot, owing it to survive financially.

This change," said WZBN president Gregory Zanon, "will put us out of business."

TKR officials, however, criticized the channel's format and refused to acknowledge the hardship it faces.

"It's very repetitive," said TKR spokeswoman Lori Pritchett about WZBN. "We're replacing it with 17 hours of live programming."

"Our intention is not to put them out of business," Pritchett said. "I don't know this will."

Cable subscribers yesterday threatened to drop TKR if it abandons WZBN.

"If you guys are taking it off, I'm getting a satellite dish," Bill Gerhauser said as he walked into the office to pick up a new cable box. "I like the station. For a dollar a day I can get a mini dish."

Gerhauser said he likes WZBN because he can watch it late at night, when it's convenient for him.

"That's what's really been a success for us," said Zanon. "Everybody gets a chance to watch the local news."

WZBN received a wide range of support from local residents and politicians to county officials and state legislators.

"That really makes us feel good," Zanon said. "We'd like the people to be the determining factor in whether we have a channel."



Trentonian Photo/GREGG SLABODA
WZBN fans show their support for the cable TV station as they protest a TKR plan that might put the local news channel out of business.

Boxer, NBA player side with WZBN

■ Supporters of the all-news station drafted the athletes to join the protest against TKR plans that would force the station out of business.

By **KIM HABAN**
The Trentonian

HAMILTON — Supporters of local news channel WZBN drafted some heavy hitters to help rescue the family-run station from extinction.

Top-ranked Trenton boxer Bryant "BB" Brannon joined about 40 protesters in front of the TKR cable offices yesterday afternoon to show the private business they will not tolerate the elimination of WZBN.

"I'm ready to fight the full 12-round fight," Brannon said. "I'm ready to knock out TKR if they don't leave ZBN alone." TKR's plan is to move WZBN from Channel 25 to Channel 8 and to cut its broadcasting time by almost 95 percent by allowing them three half-hour slots.

The FOX News network is slated to take WZBN's slot beginning Oct. 8.

Right now, WZBN broadcasts 24 hours a day with a local newscast every half hour between 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. during the week.

During the off hours and on weekends, WZBN broadcasts an all-news program with national and international coverage.

The station, with eight employees, sells advertising for the entire 24-hour time slot, allowing them to survive financially.

TKR's plan to slash WZBN's broadcasting time will force the station to fold, said President Gregory Zanoni.

Members of the Latino Chamber of Commerce, organizers of the hour-long rally, threatened to can TKR if it bagged WZBN.

"If TKR is only interested in making money, we will encourage our friends and families, who are currently paying cable bills to TKR, to pull the plug on TKR," said Rosa Rosado, spokeswoman. "If TKR says no to WZBN-TV 25, we will be forced to just say no to TKR."

Greg Grant, NBA point guard, who most recently played for the Denver Nuggets, applauded Rosado. Grant, of Hamilton, was invited to the protest by the Chamber of Commerce.

"If they're taking away one of my best cable stations," Grant said. "Then I don't want to pay for it."

"It (WZBN) is a great program," Grant said. "When I see Mercer County's Most Wanted, I have a wife and kids, that's the information we need."

Also on hand was Trenton Deputy Police Chief and Mercer County Freeholder Joe Constance, a champion of the Most Wanted show.

"TKR needs to have a community sense and give something back," Constance said. "Come on, TKR, wake up. I hope it's not a done deal."

Yet TKR spokespeople, who lurked in the background during the rally, said the switch is imminent.

"There are no plans to keep it on Channel 25," said Spokesman Ron Wolff. But, "We are very confident a mutual agreement can be reached."

As their lawyers negotiate, Zanoni, who points out that TKR and WZBN do have a contract, is not as confident.

"If it's not a 24-hour channel then they're not going to let us survive," Zanoni said. "Luckily the morale of our whole staff has been pretty good, but they don't know the future of their jobs. I don't know my future."

TRENTON WEATHER

Yesterday thru 7 p.m.: High 82, low 64, precipitation none.

Air Quality The pollution index for yesterday was a 66 on a scale of 0-500, which is moderate. The main pollutant was ozone caused by auto emissions.



Patchy fog early, then sunshine.

High 80.



Mostly clear and cool.

Low 56.



TOMORROW:
Abundant sunshine and delightful.
High 78. Low 56.



SUNDAY:
Sunshine and some high clouds.
High 80. Low 62.



MONDAY:
Increasing cloudiness.

High 82. Low 64.

SUN AND MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:24 a.m.	6:25 a.m.
Sunset	7:33 p.m.	7:32 p.m.
Length of Day	13.20 hrs.	13.15 hrs.
Moonrise	8:43 p.m.	9:20 p.m.
Moonset	8:31 a.m.	9:41 a.m.

Last New First Full



Sep. 4 Sep. 12 Sep. 20 Sep. 26

NATIONAL TEMPERATURES

Friday				Friday			
City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W
Albany	77	50	s	Houston	80	73	sh
Albuquerque	86	64	pc	Indianapolis	83	59	s
Annapolis	82	62	s	Kansas City	86	64	s
Atlanta	85	68	pc	Little Rock	86	67	pc
Atlantic City	78	64	s	Los Angeles	94	70	s
Austin	86	71	t	Miami	90	73	pc
Baltimore	84	58	s	Minneapolis-St. Paul	82	62	s
Birmingham	87	66	pc	Montpelier	70	44	s
Bismarck	82	60	s	Nashville	87	66	s
Boise	94	57	s	New Orleans	86	72	sh
Boston	76	59	s	Oklahoma City	84	65	pc
Buffalo	76	53	s	Philadelphia	82	62	s
Charleston	86	59	s	Phoenix	105	83	s
Chicago	80	58	s	Pittsburgh	82	56	s
Cincinnati	83	62	s	Portland, OR	74	56	c
Columbia	88	64	s	Providence	76	55	s
Columbus	83	58	s	Raleigh	87	63	s
Dallas	84	68	t	Richmond	85	63	s
Denver	72	52	sh	Sacramento	98	59	s
Des Moines	84	59	s	St. Louis	86	65	s
Detroit	80	58	s	San Francisco	74	55	pc
Dover	82	64	s	Salt Lake City	93	62	s
Harriburg	80	55	s	Seattle	70	55	c
Hartford	79	52	s	Tallahassee	89	68	c
Honolulu	91	74	s	Washington	84	64	s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



For 82/51

NEW YORK CITY
clear tonight. Low 62.
PHILADELPHIA
tonight. Low 62.
SHORE: Mostly 66. Surf 70-74.

TANNING INDEX
A rating of 1 to 10, cloudy day and 10

for Trenton through

Temperature
Yesterday's high
Record high
Yesterday's low
Record low
Normal range
High last year
Low last year
Precipitation in
Yesterday
Month to date
Normal, mo. to date
Year to date
Normal, yr. to date



Showers
 T-storms
 Rain
 Flurries
 Snow
 Ice

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 4, 1996

MOSTLY CLOUDY
High 80, Low 67
Details/A2

25 Cents

The Tin

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN

Council rips TKR action

Resolution decries shifting local station

By JEFF SAGNIP HOLLENDONNER
Staff Writer

HAMILTON — The township council broadcast a clear message to TKR Cable Co. of Hamilton last night: We want our Hamilton TV.

The council flexed its muscles for local television station WZBN by passing a resolution urging TKR to keep WZBN in its current slot and schedule on cable Channel 25.

Councilman Jack Lacy charged that TKR had made a decision that would affect many people without any consideration of the public.

"I resent the high-handed way TKR has gone about this, without input from anyone," Lacy said. "The citizens want more local news, not less."

Lacy likened the move to the recent decision of Trenton State College to change its name to The College of New Jersey without first hearing comment from alumni.

Councilmen David Flood, who sponsored the WZBN resolution, said TKR chose a time when the council has no leverage.

"We are at a point when they have a signed franchise agreement, and they know it," Flood said. "We could have held it up in negotiations if we had any inkling that they would ever dump our local station."

• see CABLE, A8



Baghdad residents rally in support of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein yesterday.

N.J. lawmakers back attack

By DONNA DE LA CRUZ
Associated Press

TRENTON — President Clinton's decision to order a cruise missile strike against Iraqi military targets won support from Democrats and Republican members of New Jersey's congressional delegation, but some Republicans were careful not to praise Clinton too much.

Clinton said yesterday he ordered cruise missile attacks against Iraqi

air defense installations to send a blunt message to Saddam Hussein that "when you abuse your own people or threaten your neighbors, you must pay a price."

On Monday night, Clinton ordered the military to unleash 27 cruise missiles at military targets in southern Iraq, fulfilling a promise to punish Saddam Hussein for attacking Kurds in a U.N.-designated safe zone in northern Iraq. The bombing occurred early yesterday morning. A second round of attacks was

launched last night.

Clinton's decision from Democrats and

Republican Rep. C Washington Township action against Saddam what he understands got to let the Iraqi that he cannot simply terms and agreements President Bush after

• see REACT, A12

First look



Staff photo by Michael Mancuso

Instructor for the dental assistants' program at Mercer County Vocational School is showing one of her students touring the new dental lab, which is part of the Health Extension at the Hamilton facility. Dedication ceremonies were held yesterday afternoon at the intersection of Hamilton Way and Klockner Road. Students, from left, are Renee Gibbs, Jennifer DiFlorio, Jennifer D'Agosta, Rosemarie Dempsey and Consuela Gulley.

Still searching for pair -by shooting of boy

in the middle when shots were fired from a car by a man looking to settle a grudge, Deputy Police Chief Joseph Constance said yesterday.

Campbell was rushed to Mercer Medical Center where he was treated for his wound and kept overnight for observation, police said.

"I understand he is recovering well," Constance said.

Constance said police expect to make arrests soon in the shooting and the investigation is likely to lead to the arrests of people not involved in Wednesday's shooting, near the intersection of Calhoun Street, but who have participated in other crimes related to what he termed a feud between drug dealers.

"Of course it's about drugs," Con-

stance said. "Isn't everything any more? It seems like all the violent crimes and most of the property crimes are related to drugs."

Warrants were issued for the arrests of Rashawn Edward Cannon, 23, of the 400 block of West Hanover Street, the alleged shooter, and Delmar Francis Bethea, 24, of the 100 block of North Hermitage Avenue, the alleged driver of the small tan sedan from which the shots were fired, police said.

Constance vowed there would be an intense effort to capture the two men. "We have stakeouts, search teams and surveillance in place," Constance said yesterday. "We know that they are armed. We consider them dangerous."

Washington condemns TKR action

WZBN a 'valuable voice' in township community

By CHRISTOPHER DAVIS
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP — The members of the township committee stated their position in no uncertain terms: They want their ZBN.

The committee passed a resolution last night opposing the decision of TKR Cable Co. of Hamilton to cut the television broadcast of WZBN from 24 hours a day to about one hour. Officials of the news station have stated that TKR's planned action will unquestionably put WZBN out of business.

TKR of Hamilton is the exclusive cable provider for Washington Township.

"We are appealing to TKR to leave it on," Deputy Mayor Rosemary Pramuk said.

Committeeman Glen Beebe agreed. "The problem is that, because of TKR, we'll lose a valuable voice for local news," he said. "Residents here rely on it."

"We don't get a lot of coverage, but it's nice to know they're there."

Pramuk and Beebe joined Mayor Nancy Tindall and Committeeman Joseph Odenheimer in voting to oppose TKR's move. Committeeman Vincent Calcagno was absent.

A WZBN camera crew videotaped the proceedings.

"We all know that larger communities like Trenton and Hamilton get more media coverage (than Washington Township)," Pramuk said. "But WZBN covers us anytime we ask them to do that."

"Since it's on 24 hours, someone who works three shifts a day can come home in the middle of the night and find out what's going on."

Odenheimer cited the educational value of the station.

"It's very educational," Odenheimer said. "It can get children involved in the issues even when they tune in to find school sports scores. But that leads to an interest in county, state, national and world issues."

"TKR should wake up and realize that this is a valuable educational tool."

'We all know that larger communities like Trenton and Hamilton get more media coverage (than Washington Township). But WZBN covers us anytime we ask them to do that.'

— Rosemary Pramuk,
deputy mayor of
Washington Township

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William D. Mitchell

■ Obituary information, A12.

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"He had a twinkle in his eye and a wonderful sense of humor," said Judge Audrey Peyton Blackburn, who worked with Mitchell for the past three years. "We're kind of an extended family because we spend so much time together. This is very, very difficult for us. Nobody is doing real well around here today."

Judge Kevin McGrory, who heads municipal court, decided to close court tomorrow for the deceased officer's memorial service and burial to be held at Galilee Baptist Church at 9 a.m.

"I was very fond of Doug. He had a measured

California to visit Doug Jr. — his oldest son — who is in his last year in school out there," Williams said of Mitchell, who was to have been an usher in his brother's wedding held Sunday. "The wedding went on as planned, which was good for the family because it helped ease some of the tension."

Mitchell, who grew up on Spring Street in Trenton, decided to become a police officer after completing a tour as a medic in the Navy. He married Lavern Willis in 1971 and they had two sons, Douglas and Marcus. The Mitchells celebrated their 25th anniversary earlier this year.

Always a hard worker, Mitchell did everything he could to provide a good life for his wife and children, McGrory said.

"He loved to talk about his family and we loved to hear about them. He made all their adventures sound so interesting," he said. "Doug worked hard for his family, but I think if we'd known that he was working that side job, we would have told him to take some time to smell the roses."

Staff writer Peter Page contributed to this report.

neimer and Deputy Mayor Ros-
mary Pramuk. Odenheimer is not
running for re-election. Pramuk is
running with Curtis Macysyn.

The Republicans defended Dill's
appointment and his performance.

"Dill has already paid for his sal-
ary for at least the next two years
with the money he has saved the
township," Pramuk said. "He has
saved us money through the new
PBA contract, during the snow-
storms last winter, in interlocal
agreements and refinancing on
bond sales.

"At one point in time, we had a
management team with the town-
ship clerk, the police chief, housing
official, engineer and the financial
officer at the time running the
township's business. They reported
to the committee, we each took a de-
partment," Pramuk said. "And
though we were elected to make
policy and pass laws, we were run-

would be to their full-time jobs, the
jobs that pay the bills. They are too
dependent on the state."

Pramuk and Macysyn dismissed
their claims. "This is the same tired,
hackneyed, Democratic rhetoric I've
heard for six years," said Pramuk,
who was elected to the committee in
1990. "I work for the legislature, not
the governor. Again, the other two
candidates obviously don't know
very much about government or
how it works."

Macysyn said that his group will
lobby the state administration, "but
I'm not even on the state payroll. It's
an unfair swipe," he said. "I do not
agree with the contention that I
have strong ties to the administra-
tion. I'm running as a Republican,
and at times my views mesh with
Whitman's. But I don't agree with
their contention."

SEPT. 24, 1996 - TRENTON TIMES

Mayor backs embattled WZBN

By JOHN J. EDWARDS III
Staff Writer

TRENTON — As local news channel WZBN continues fighting to keep its 24-hour channel on TKR Cable of Hamilton, Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer and Council President William H. Young yesterday became the latest public officials to back the station's effort.

TKR, which serves Hamilton, Washington Township and Allentown Borough, plans to remove WZBN from Channel 25 on Oct. 8 and replace it with the new Fox all-news channel.

WZBN, which now broadcasts its daily "Mercer County Update" newscast 30 times a day, would be moved to public-access Channel 8 with its schedule trimmed to four evening broadcasts and a midnight-to-6 a.m. rotation. WZBN says the change would cut its advertising revenue so much that the station would go out of business.

At a City Hall press conference, Palmer said the loss of WZBN would affect Trenton as much as it would any other Mercer County community.

"Without WZBN, we lose one of the most critical means of communications and public information in the

capital city area," Palmer said. "Theirs is a critical voice and we cannot afford to see it silenced."

Young said he planned to sponsor a resolution backing WZBN and would write to TKR and to Hamilton Mayor Jack Rafferty on the issue. "It's vital that we have a WZBN to tell our story," Young said.

Rafferty and the Hamilton council already have expressed strong support for WZBN.

Palmer praised WZBN for its focus on positive local stories. "The only time the big networks would come to Trenton would be if a tragedy were to happen," he said.

Greg Zanoni, a co-owner of the station who operated its camera at the press conference, said WZBN is suing TKR for breach of contract. The station's agreement with the cable system specifies that WZBN will be allowed to provide programming of local interest, he said.

Darren Belick, area general manager of TKR, said the system plans to maintain in court that WZBN itself was noncompliant with the contract. WZBN was supposed to provide much more original, nonuplicative programming than it now does, he said.

"One-point-four hours out of a 168-hour week does not warrant a 24-hour channel," Belick said. Each WZBN newscast is 17 minutes long, or 22 minutes with commercials, he said.

Man suspect robbery

When the clerk did not respond to the man's order, he reached across the counter and forced open a drawer near the lottery machine, Petty said. The man grabbed about \$200 or \$300 from the drawer and then ran out of the store, fleeing east on Route 33, Petty said.

area. A police dog from the state Department of Corrections was called to assist and managed to track the suspect for about a mile through a wooded area before losing the trail, Petty said.

There were no injuries reported.

The suspect was described as white, between 17 and 20 years old, thin, between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet 1 inch tall, with no facial hair or glasses. He was wearing a white T-shirt and a dark-blue sweat shirt with a hood pulled over his head.

Petty and Patrolman Anthony Celentano are investigating. Any witnesses can call them at (609) 259-3900.

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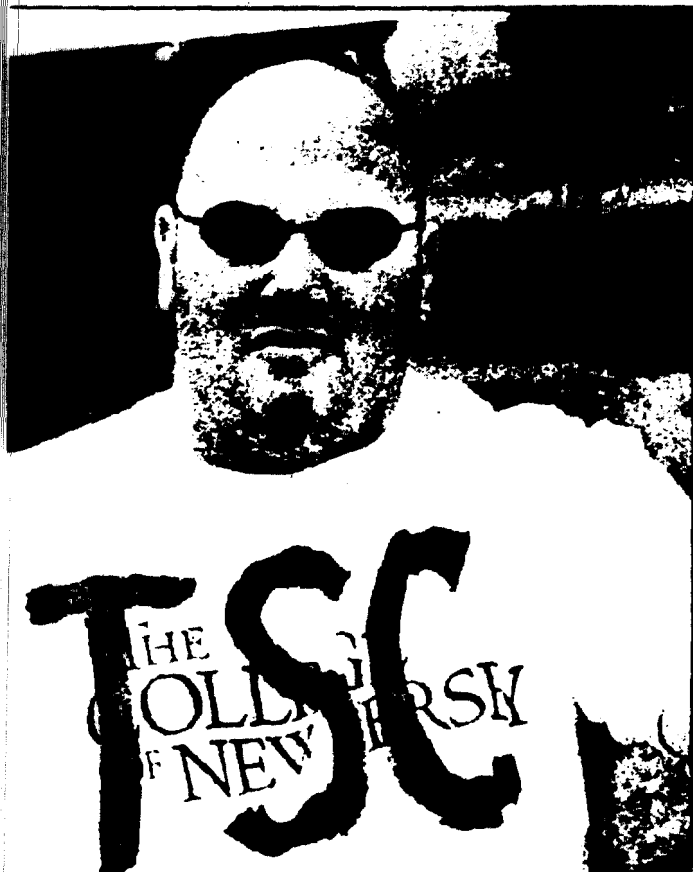
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Trentonian Photo/JEFF ZELEVANSKY



WZBN seeks court order

Rival station delivering KO

By KIM HABAN

The Trentonian

HAMILTON — WZBN, a local news channel, is seeking a court order to save it from a cable company's business plan that could shut down the 3-year-old station next month.

Lawyers for the family-run news station are expected to file legal papers by the end of this week asking for a court injunction to halt TKR's plans to move the full-time news channel to a part-time slot.

As it stands now, on Oct. 8, TKR will air the FOX News Network on Channel 25 and switch WZBN to three half-hour slots on Channel 8.

The move, protested by hundreds of county residents, would limit WZBN's advertising capabilities and ultimately put the station out of business, said WZBN President Greg Zanoni.

"The only thing we have now that's really going to do anything is the lawsuit," said Zanoni. "I have no options. If they win then we'll really have to regroup and see what possibly we can do."

Yet the area general manager for TKR said he offered the station alternatives and criticized it for using the broadcast for self promotion.

Darren Belick said his offer to air the prerecorded newscast from midnight until 6 a.m. and then four more times throughout the day was refused.

"If ZBN is not there to provide a local news source," Belick said, "we will step up to fill that void."

"TKR was not incorporated to put WZBN in business," Belick said. "We're incorporated to provide a community service. If they go away, my commitment to the community is that there will be a local news outlet."

Since the announcement of TKR's plans, cable subscribers and various community organizations have been staging protests

SU

DETROIT (AP) —

Roger Clemens matched the only pitcher who ever has struck out 20 — himself.

The Red Sox right-hander equaled his own major league record last night, fanning 20 batters and pitching a four-hitter to lead Boston over the Detroit Tigers 4-0.

"You can't take anyone for granted," Clemens said of the Tigers, who at .254 have the lowest batting average in the AL. "I just feel very fortunate, very blessed."

Clemens (10-12) set the strike-out record at Fenway Park on

Expos p

MONTREAL (AP) — Moises Alou hit his second straight three-hit game, scored the go-ahead run in the seventh when F.P. Santangelo was hit a pitch with the bases loaded as Montreal beat the Mets 4-3 last night.

Alou, who had three hits in a game over the Mets on Tuesday night, led off the leadoff walk from Dave Mlicki (6-1) and stole second as Henry Rodriguez walked and Rondell White walked and

Stankiewicz pinch-hit and pinch-hit to load the bases. Mlicki then struck out Santangelo.

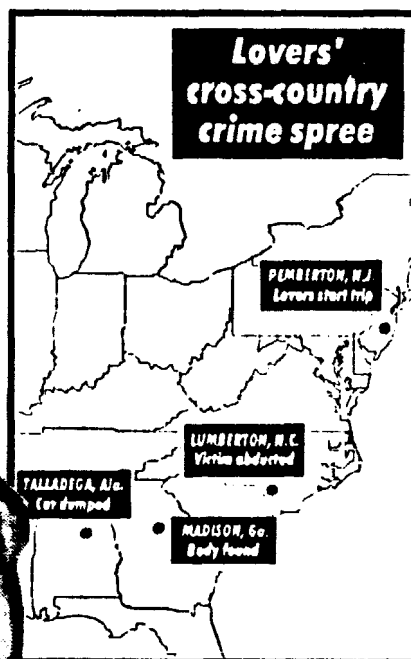
Alou and New York to its fourth straight loss.

Montreal, which begins a five-game series with first-place Atlanta on Friday, won for the sixth time in seven games and moved 17 games over .500 for the first time this season, kept pace with San Francisco in the NL wild-card race.

Ugueth Urbina (9-5), who allowed a game-tying homer in the eighth, worked two innings for the victory as Rojas got the last three outs for his save.

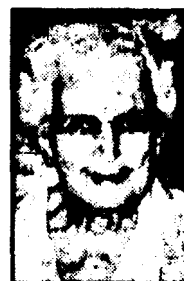
Lance Johnson led off the Mets' first

NL Roundup



Trentonian Photo/
APRIL ADAMSON

Alicia Woodward left her mother's home to move to this Pemberton house with her boyfriend, John Esposito.



**LOLA
DAVIS:
Victim**

already been compared to infamous murderers Mickey and Mallory Knox, whose twisted tale was told in the violent cult movie "Natural Born Killers."

And like the real "Natural Born Killers," Woodward and Esposito, last spotted fleeing across country in a stolen car Saturday, are the focus of a nationwide murder investigation.

Yesterday, as a detective stood watch in a car outside the family's Marlton home, the 18-year-old's mother caught a plane to Georgia to join police in the search.

The search for the "Natural Born Killers" began on Thursday, just hours after the duo allegedly carjacked 85-year-old Lola Davis of Lumberton, N.C., as she put groceries in her car.

Woodward's broken-down 1986 Pontiac Grand Am was discovered in the parking lot of the Winn-Dixie supermarket there, where Davis was last seen.

Davis' body was discov-

guy. They stood on the quiet, residential street, whispering and staring at her house.

One man recalled that he'd turned down Woodward's offers to babysit his children, because he thought she might "have problems," and "didn't like the way she looked."

"Everyone was surprised to hear she was involved in something like this," said Steve Richard, who lives near the Woodwards on Lakeside Drive.

"That's what happens when you hang out with the wrong people," he said.

But 15 miles away, in a small, run-down, two-family house in a crime-ridden section of Pemberton Township, residents there revealed Woodward's secret second life.

Neighbors of the Lemmon Street home the couple shared described Woodward, an attractive brunette with dark eyes and pale skin, as an "unstable" teen, who was allegedly (Continued on Page 11)

City fathers support embattled TV station

By **CHIP SCUTARI**

The Trentonian

Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer yesterday joined the chorus of concerned cable customers in Mercer County, railing against the impending demise of a local television station.

Since last month, family-run WZBN has been resisting the plans of a local cable giant to move the news station from a full-time operation to a part-time program.

"Without WZBN, we lose one of the most critical means of communications and public information in the Capital-City area," Palmer

said. "They are a critical voice, and we cannot afford to see it silenced."

Starting on Oct. 8 — unless a legal remedy is found — cable company TKR will air FOX News Network on Channel 25 and move WZBN to Channel 8.

If a recently filed court injunction against TKR proves unsuccessful, the local station would have only eight hours of programming, with six of those hours being between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m.

Despite the impassioned rhetoric, TKR General Manager Darren Belick said the move is a "programming decision and not a political

decision."

"They are not a 24-hour channel," Belick said. "They produce less than 1 percent of locally produced, non-duplicative programming in any given week."

"More than 75 percent of the air time is dedicated to a national news network."

Belick said TKR isn't trying to put the local news station out of business — just make their cable company stronger.

But WZBN officials say the plans would hamper their ability to sell advertising and ultimately put the station out of business.

Joining Palmer, City Council President Bill Young lent his personal support to WZBN's local programming.

"They play an integral part in providing a service to Mercer County residents," said Young, who sat next to Palmer at yesterday's City Hall press conference. "We have to find a way to keep WZBN on the air."

Throughout the station's month-long battle for survival, county residents have flooded the station with hundreds of letters and scores of calls supporting the TV outlet.

In addition to the cable cus-

tomers, state legislators and local lawmakers have thrown their political weight behind the Hamilton Township station.

For the past three years, WZBN has aired a 22-minute broadcast — every half hour from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m. — making it easy for everyone to get a look at local events and issues.

Despite WZBN's dim prospects, station President Greg Zanoni said he remains upbeat.

"Our lawyers are confident that it will stand up in court," Zanoni said. "I think we're in good shape."



of her class

Merger teacher of the year

Instead of merely looking at them and repeating them from a page.

It's innovative, nontraditional teaching techniques like this that won Borgia the township and county teacher of the year awards, and put her in contention for the state trophy.

"I've been doing it for two years," Borgia said from her brightly decorated Morgan

• see BORGIA, A8

Extending a hand to worried parents

By JOHN J. EDWARDS III
Staff Writer

EWING — Jim Lunetta has spent decades working with troubled kids on local streets, in institutions and in his own home, and he says his experiences have taught him more than a few things about how to keep young people on the right track.

Lunetta, a former Mercer County sheriff's officer, now heads a 2-month-old security and investigation firm called Force

One. The firm will offer the usual private-eye and bodyguard services, but it will also offer aid to worried parents in the form of its "Kids in Trouble" program.

The program will get under way Oct. 15 with the opening of a crisis hotline for Mercer County parents, (609) 771-9760. Lunetta said he and his small but growing staff will provide counseling and referrals on children's behavior problems. Force One will also offer free assistance in tracking down runaways.

"Regardless of the problem that they have, we want (parents) to know that

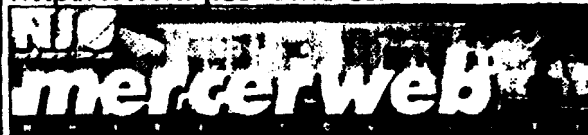
there's a friend in Force One," Lunetta said. "They can always come to us in confidentiality and we'll — within the guidelines of laws, that's important — we'll intercede for them. With other agencies as need be, with parents as need be."

Kids in trouble will focus squarely on the interaction of parents and children, which Lunetta said isn't always addressed by social service agencies.

"It has to be on the level where the par-

• see LUNETTA, A8

<http://www.nj.com/mercer>



The past seven days of obituaries are searchable on Mercerweb. Point your browser to <http://www.nj.com/mercer>, then search the Newsbank.

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WZBN wins reprieve from bid to cut hours

By EMILY J. HORNADAY
Staff Writer

TRENTON — WZBN Channel 25 lives.

A Superior Court judge yesterday ruled that the local television station in Hamilton will remain on TKR Cable without interruption — at least for the time being.

"(WZBN) seeks to maintain the status quo, ... and I find that is justified," concluded Judge Samuel D. Lenox Jr.

Lenox granted the station a temporary injunction blocking TKR Cable Co. from slashing the hours it carries WZBN broadcasts and from moving it to a different channel beginning Monday at 11:59 p.m.

The injunction will remain in effect until either the companies reach a settlement or the issue is resolved by a jury during a civil trial.

In a strongly worded opinion, Lenox concluded that he found it "probable" that WZBN would prevail at trial.

Greg Zanoni, WZBN president and owner, attended yesterday's hearing along with his sister, Doreen Damico, who is the station's vice president, and their father, Louis Zanoni, who is chief operating officer of the station.

"We're relieved, but there's still a long way to go," Greg Zanoni said after the ruling.

• see WZBN, A4

Comments of
W25AW (WZBN TV-25)
On RM-9260
May 13, 1998

EXHIBIT "E"

Samples of Individually Written Letters In Support of
WZBN (W25AW)

BILL BRADLEY
NEW JERSEY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3001

September 10, 1996

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
AGING

Mr. Darin Belich
General Manager
TKR Cable Company
2137 Hamilton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08619

Dear Mr. Belich:

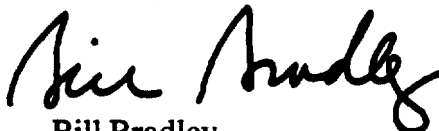
I write to express my support for WZBN, the local television station in Hamilton Township. I understand that TKR Cable Company is considering a plan that would eliminate WZBN's current 24-hour broadcasting format.

WZBN provides the residents of Hamilton Township and the surrounding area with an important source of local news. Because New Jersey is located between two of the largest media markets in the nation, local news providers in New Jersey often face enormous challenges to disseminating their programming. Organizations such as WZBN attempt to provide news that is focused on communities in our state, and as such they are very important to New Jerseyans.

I understand that legal action may ensue on this matter; this letter is in no way intended as an opinion on current or future legal proceedings.

I hope you will consider the importance of local programming to communities such as Hamilton Township as you make your decision regarding WZBN, as well as other important sources of local programming in New Jersey. I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Bill Bradley
United States Senator

BB/lmm

SENT BY:

8-20-96 12:01PM

509 587 0011: # 2 / 2

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
4TH DISTRICT NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2270 HAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3004
(202) 225-2785

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTER
1170 GREENWICH AVENUE
HAMILTON, NJ 08602-2306
(609) 590-2900
TTY (609) 590-2900

100 LACEY ROAD
SUITE 20A
WINDSOR, NJ 08789-1311
(908) 350-2300



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3004

COMMITTEES.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
CHAIRMAN: INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS
WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS
VICE CHAIRMAN
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE

**COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE**
CHAIRMAN

August 27, 1996

Hamilton TKR Co.
2137 Hamilton Avenue
Hamilton Township, NJ 08619
ATTENTION: Darren Belick, General Manager

Dear Mr. Belick:


Area residents and subscribers of TKR cable were recently informed of a major decision by your cable company that would nearly eliminate WZBN-TV -- our local channel that provides news and coverage of Mercer County area events. I believe that many -- if not most -- subscribers to TKR are quite unhappy with this decision, as Channel 25 airs quality public affairs and news that cannot be seen elsewhere.

The judgment by TKR to replace our local channel with a new national news channel ignores the growing trend of servicing local interests. Mercer County does not need a mere duplication of the national network broadcasts -- we need local programming in our news, not redundant "networking" from our televisions.

The "Mercer County Update" and "Mercer County's Most Wanted" ought to be aired along with WZBN's extensive coverage of local sporting events, 24 hours a day. As telecommunications technology is now stronger than ever, most cable companies are expanding the number of channels available to their customers, not vice versa.

The Mercer County Freeholders and many area residents have already made their voices heard to TKR. As the U.S. Congressman representing the Fourth District -- and a viewer in my home and offices -- I respectfully request that TKR retains the 24 hour-a-day coverage of Hamilton Township's own WZBN.

Sincerely,


CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

United Way

3131 Princeton Pike
Building 4 - Suite 113
P.O. Box 6193
Lawrenceville, N.J. 08648-0193

of Greater
Mercer County

Phone #
(609) 896-1912
FAX #
(609) 895-1245

September 3, 1996

Mr. Paul Freas
President
TKR Cable Company
67 B Mountain Blvd. Ext.
Warren, New Jersey 07059

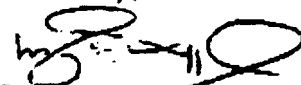
Dear Mr. Freas:

First of all I would like to thank you for TKR Cable's outstanding contributions to United Way. Your company has always been community-minded. That is why I am so disappointed that our local TKR has decided to move WZBN from its present full time channel 25 and replace it with FOX news channel. WZBN will then have a part-time presence on local channel 8. It is my understanding that this move will result in lost advertising revenue which will cause the station to cease existence.

Organizations like United Way depend on the generosity of others to exist, but we have to have a medium to get the word out. WZBN has come through for us. The station has been paramount in its assistance. Mercer County residents are better informed because of WZBN. Residents get a better understanding of local issues, nonprofits and the like because of the station's community coverage.

WZBN makes our community better because it celebrates the good people, organization and issues in greater Mercer County. For a true community service to your patrons, please keep WZBN on as full-time status where it belongs on Channel 25.

Sincerely,


Craig E. Lafferty
President

cc: Darren Bellick



New Jersey Capital Area Chapter
707 Alexander Road, Suite 101
Princeton, New Jersey 08540-6399
(609) 961-8560 • Fax: (609) 961-9787

August 29, 1996

Mr. Paul Freas
President
TKR Cable Company
67 B Mountain Blvd. Ext.
Warren, N.J. 07059

Dear Mr. Freas:

I am writing you to *strongly* protest the possible removal of WBZN TV-25 from its full time channel status on the TKR Cable Company of Hamilton's programming.

For more than three years WBZN TV-25 has provided valuable local TV news coverage of the Mercer County area that is not available through any other news source. Thanks to WBZN's news coverage, the Red Cross is able to reach viewing audiences. Without WBZN, the Red Cross would not have had the local exposure that is so important to our constituents who also happen to be your subscribers.

I urge that you will keep WBZN TV-25 as a full time channel on the TKR cable system as an important service to the subscribers of TKR in Hamilton, New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Novak".

David J. Novak
Director of Marketing
and Communication

cc: Darren P. Belick, TKR GM

DJN/jf

Help Can't Wait
Leading the way in Community Service



Board of Education
**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

90 Park Avenue • Hamilton, NJ 08690

(609)-890-3723

Fax#: (609)-584-8842

Neil A. Bencivengo
Interim Superintendent

August 26, 1996

TKR Cable Company
Daren Belick, General Manager
2137 Hamilton Avenue
Hamilton, New Jersey 08619

Dear Mr. Belick:

This letter is being written in support of the current cable programming timeframe dedicated to station WZBN by TKR Cable Company. We object to any changes in your programming that will affect the present status of WZBN. Any changes that are less than we currently experience will be inadequate for Hamilton Township residents to view local Mercer County news, information, and weather. We thoroughly enjoy watching WZBN's program, the convenient way it is scheduled, and the way they cover Mercer County, especially Hamilton Township.

Sincerely,

Neil A. Bencivengo

Neil A. Bencivengo
Superintendent

Harry D. Gray - Principal - Wilson School

Anthony M. Armenti, Director

Richard C. Pierson

Principal - Robinson School

Darryl Bencivengo

Principal - Mercerville School

Harry J. Keller

Principal - Sayre School

Michael G. Murphy

Principal - Bingham School

Dore McWilliam - Grace Middle School

Chris Branas
University Heights School

Ernie Hogan - Principal
Yardville

Frank Burgess - Principal
Hamilton High - East

Carmela Locale (Principal) Allegheny School

John Talumbo - Principal Kistler



THE LATINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF MERCER COUNTY, INC.

653 Centre Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08611 609-599-1172

August 28, 1996

Darren Belick
General Manager
TKR Cable Company of Hamilton
2317 Hamilton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08619

Dear Mr. Belick:

The Latino Chamber of Commerce of Mercer County, Inc., a non-profit commerce organization, would like to add its name and voice in support of continuing the airing of WZBN-TV 25 on TKR Cable Company of Hamilton. The Latino Chamber of Commerce of Mercer County consisting of 110 Latino businesses in the Mercer County area is committed to the economic and social development of our members and the community for whom those businesses serve.

WZBN-TV 25 has been instrumental in providing information regarding news, issues and concerns which have an impact on Mercer County's growing Latino community. Whereas other television outlets and the media in general have not always noticed Latinos and the positive contributions that we offer to the society and have treated our community all too often as invisible men and women, WZBN-TV 25 has demonstrated an awareness and sensitivity in covering Mercer's Latino community. WZBN-TV 25's contribution and service to our community has been invaluable. In addition to the Latino community having a positive perception of WZBN-TV 25, we believe other members of the larger community also share a similar opinion of WZBN-TV 25. Be it high school sports, political campaign coverage or local weather, WZBN-TV 25 has made Mercer County first.

Another factor which we believe is important and should not be overlooked is that WZBN-TV 25 begins its coverage of Mercer County news at 10:00 PM whereas most other stations do not present their night time news coverage until 11:00PM. Many parents like for their children to see the news and learn current events. However, many feel 11:00 PM is too late for their children to remain up to watch the news. Once again, WZBN-TV 25 provides an invaluable service to another special needs population, education minded parents and their school age children. For these reasons and many more we urge you not to remove WZBN-TV 25 from the programming offered by TKR.

On behalf of the Latino Chamber of Mercer County and the significant number of Latinos living in Hamilton, we add our voice and support of the station which has covered and supported our community, WZBN-TV 25, Mercer County's Local News Channel.

We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Freddie Rosado
President

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF



SAMUEL J. PLUMERI, JR.
SHERIFF



MERCER COUNTY COURT HOUSE
P.O. Box 8088
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08650-0088

August 22, 1996

Mr. Darren P. Belick
General Manager
TKR Cable
2137 Hamilton Avenue
Hamilton, N.J. 08619

Dear Mr. Belick:

I am writing to you regarding the front page headline story in today's Times that TKR plans to reduce WZBN's broadcast from a 24-hours-a-day to one hour.

By reducing WZBN's ability to broadcast it's local programming, TKR is effectively denying the residents of Hamilton Township as well as Mercer County information that directly impacts the community. WZBN's local news broadcast has kept the public informed on issues that affect them. The Mercer County Update is news that is germane to the daily life of people who live, work and have businesses in Hamilton Township and the surrounding communities of Mercer County. As a local program, WZBN has highlighted school sports and community services thus enhancing a sense of community pride.

From a very personal viewpoint, WZBN's "Mercer's Most Wanted" has provided law enforcements officials in Mercer County with an avenue for citizens to participate and contribute to the safety of their communities and neighborhoods. To date, almost 80 fugitives have been captured as a direct result of WZBN's production of "Mercer's Most Wanted". As Sheriff of Mercer County and a law enforcement professional for almost 30 years, I am confident that WZBN's commitment to community broadcasting has contributed significantly to law enforcement's job in apprehending criminals.



MERCER COUNTY LABOR UNION COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

REPRESENTS THE LOCAL UNIONS IN THE AREA AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

13 ROCK ROYAL ROAD, YARDVILLE, NJ 08620

Work - 586-9093

Home - 585-6152

Labor Consociatus

Officers

DONALD B. DILEO
President
AFSCME

BILL HOLDER
Vice-President
Community Services
AFSCME

JIM KRAEMER
Vice-President
Building Trades
IBEW

ROBERT DIBIANCO
Vice-President
Industrial Unions
USWA

JOHN KELLY
Vice-President
Public Employees
CWA

CHARLES WHALEN, JR.
General Vice-President
Plumbers

WAYNE DeANGELO
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IBEW

JIM TARLAU
Treasurer
CWA

Trustees

CLIFF REISSER
WAYNE COVELL
ART SIELICKI

Sgt-at-Arms

JON WINELAND
CWA

Executive Board

MIKE MALONEY
Plumbers 9

JEFF BINZ
UAW 731

MICHAEL ZAGOLA
Carpenters 31

FRANK SORCE
USWA 3355

PETER CERENZO
CWA 1032

GEORGE POULOS
HERE 54

LORENZO CANAZARES
CWA 1040

MATT WURPEL
GCIU 70

BERTHA TILLMAN
CWA 1034

CHRIS GOLDEN
Carpenters 781

ANTHONY D'ARTIGLIO
Teamsters 35

THOMAS J. DUNN
President Emeritus

LOU PERSICO
Vice-President Emeritus

September 6, 1996

Mr. Darren Belick
General Manager, TKR Cable
2137 Hamilton Ave.
Mercerville, N.J. 08619

Dear Mr. Belick;

I would like to address the proposed cancellation of the W.Z.B.N. service on TKR Cable. This local news service is a community asset and a service to the residents of Hamilton Township.

The Mercer County AFL-CIO represents 45,000 working men and women in Mercer County. If you add their families you are looking at a market of over 150,000 local residents. A great majority of this market live in Hamilton.

I speak for all of our members and their families in demanding you reinstate the W.Z.B.N. service. While you publicly pronounce this cancellation as a business decision, this is a bad business decision. You are severely damaging your relations with your customers.

THE AFL-CIO FAMILIES THAT ARE YOUR CUSTOMERS WANT THE RETURN OF W.Z.B.N. TO THEIR CABLE SYSTEM.

William Holder
Vice President

A Real Voice on the Job

THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AFL-CIO LEADING THE FIGHT FOR AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES



September 3, 1996

TKR
Darren Bellick, General Manager
2137 Hamilton Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08619

Dear Mr. Bellick:

On behalf of the Hamilton Jaycees, I would like to express my disappointment regarding the cancellation of WZBN.

Being a recognized Hamilton Township community organization we need not be reminded of the importance of community based activities and the reporting of these activities. Which WZBN did in a creative way.

WZBN displayed excellent exposure of all Hamilton Township and Mercer County events and activities.

I can only conclude with your organization taking a look at what you are canceling and how it will impact Hamilton Township. Please take a closer look.

Thank you for you time.

Sincerely,

Melissa L. O'Neill
4th President



TRENTON MUNICIPAL COURT

P.O. BOX 1360
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08607

R. Kevin McGrory
Chief Judge

September 16, 1996

609-989-3719

Mr. Darren P. Bellick, General Manager
TKR Cable Company
2137 Hamilton Avenue
Hamilton Twp., New Jersey 08619

Re: WZBN - TV 25

Dear Mr. Bellick:

On behalf of the Judges and Staffmembers of the City of Trenton Municipal Court I am writing to express our serious concern regarding TKR Cable Company's decision to, in effect, cause some 90,000 residents of our City and thousands more in our County to lose our friend and adviser in the world of television news journalism. In this day and age when so many individuals rely on information gleaned from television news as opposed to that of print journalism, the ability to learn of local events, achievements, occurrences and all matter of happenings makes WZBN-TV 25's existence essential to the citizens of our local community. WZBN-TV 25 has performed, in our estimation, a remarkable job of covering local news in the Trenton - Mercer area without benefit of a extensive budget but certainly with a firm determination to cover events and to engage in active and fair journalistic practices much to the delight of thousands and thousands of its local viewers.

I would respectfully request that you as General Manager of TKR Cable Company reconsider your intended actions and allow WZBN-TV 25 to continue to be on the cutting edge of news in the Mercer County area. To deprive the citizens of Mercer County of a first rate news organization would not only be unfortunate but in the long run indefensible as an informed public is a knowledgeable public.

My own personal experiences with the staff of WZBN-TV 25 lead me to conclude that their professionalism is every bit as sharp and proficient as those

of the larger Philadelphia and New York television stations that we receive here in Trenton. The reporters have become like family members to thousands of citizens here in Mercer County and they will be sorely missed should your decision to delete the news coverage of WZBN-TV 25 be final.

I like to think that virtually nothing is cut in stone, particularly when it comes to people. I know your decision was well intentioned and was made in a business like manner and I in no way impugn your motives. I simply ask that you reconsider your decision and on behalf of the citizens of Mercer County allow us to have our own television news program so that we can truly be a fully informed public.

Very truly yours,


Kevin McGrory, P.J.M.C.
Trenton Municipal Court

cc: WZBN-TV25



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

8th FIRE DISTRICT, HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

801 Kuser Road
Hamilton, New Jersey 08619
(609) 586-5454

TKR Cable
2137 Hamilton Ave.
Hamilton, New jersey 08619
Att: Darren Belick, GM

September 11, 1996

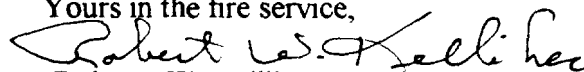
Dear Belick,

On September 3, 1996, ~~the~~ Board of Fire Commissioner voted to go on record in support of WZBN and its' efforts to remain a full time news station. The Board of Fire Commissioners is particularly concern that there will be no local news station that is completely devoted to the news in Mercer County if WZBN is taken off the air. There are times when it is imperative that the fire and rescue service get its' message out to all residents of Mercer County such as the recent flooding in Ewing Township. All municipalities at one time or another has had a disaster. These communities were in need of TV news coverage to help get disaster relief information to its' residence. TV stations from Philadelphia or New York do not give the in-depth coverage that is need to get the fire service's message out to local residents who may be in need of disaster relief. WZBN is such a TV station that tells local residents where they might seek assistance such as emergency shelter and/or help from the Red Cross.

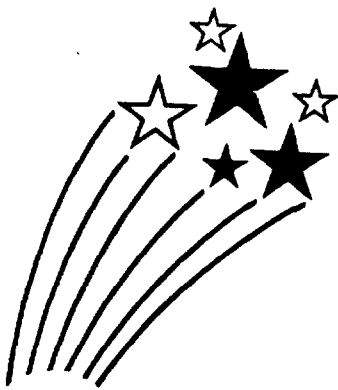
In Mercer County the fire service is mostly volunteer. Only Trenton has a completely paid department. As you know volunteering is on the decline both in this country and in Mercer County. WZBN, by its' coverage of local events, helps in the recruitment of new volunteers in the fire service. By keeping the fire service volunteer the property taxes are kept from escalating to a point where senior citizens and people with low income can afford to own their own home. Escalating taxes are a concern of all county property owners. TKR could, in an indirect way, be a contributing factor in fostering volunteering in the fire service thus helping keep down property taxes.

WZBN is the local station that deals primary with local news. It is imperative to the volunteer fire service to have this resource at its' disposal. If you are truly a community minded business who is interested in the needs of the community for which you serve, you will continue broadcasting WZBN on a 24 hour bases.

Yours in the fire service,


Robert W. Kelliher
Clerk of the Board

c: WZBN
file



"Reaching For The Stars"

Kuser School PTA
70 Newkirk Avenue
Hamilton Township, N.J. 08629
(609) 890-3750

September 22, 1996

Mr. Darren Belick, General Manager
TKR Cable Company
2137 Hamilton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08619

Dear Mr. Belick:

As President of the Kuser School PTA, I write you today, representing 415 families of Kuser Elementary School. We as parents of these students are asking you to please reconsider replacing WZBN Channel 25 with the FOX station. WZBN has covered events which have taken place at our school on so many occasions, and the children, parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors, etc. seeing those events coming to life on television, has resulted in sometimes the greatest pleasure a person could ever imagine.

The students at Kuser School are currently participating in the third year of a "Conflict Resolution" program which is incorporated in their curriculum. Someday, Kuser Elementary School hopes to make a difference in the world. WZBN has been a "Partner in Peace" with us by passing this information on to other residents in the Mercer County area, by broadcasting our events. We may be small - but we are mighty and we can make a difference. I know FOX will not be at our next assembly, broadcasting for the Mercer County residents to see; however, if WZBN isn't replaced, I can guarantee you they will be there!

Again, I ask you on behalf of the 415 families of Kuser Elementary School to please reconsider your decision and please keep WZBN on a full-time basis on channel 25. Included with this letter are names of our parents opposing the idea of bringing FOX to channel 25.

I thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you positively.

Sincerely,

Karen Spair

Karen Spair
PTA President
Kuser School

kjs
enclosure

cc. WZBN ✓

New Jersey State Policeman's Benevolent Association, Inc.



Hamilton Police P.B.A.
1270 Whitehorse Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08619

Local 66
Charter 1927

Office (609) 585-5892
HQ (609) 581-4000
FAX (609) 581-4096



Darren Belick
TKR General Manager
2137 Hamilton Avenue
Hamilton Township N.J. 08619

September 4, 1996

Mr. Belick,

My name is J. Kevin Elmer, and I am the President of the Hamilton Twp Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) Local #66. I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the one hundred sixty eight (168) men and women of our local and their families.

We are very concerned with your decision to move WZBN to a different channel with less broadcasts. You are dealing WZBN, as well as the community you service, a grave injustice by removing WZBN from its regular programming slots.

This letter is to let you know that we, PBA #66 and our families support WZBN one hundred percent and want WZBN to stay right where it is. We are prepared to do whatever it takes to assist WZBN in their fight to stay on the air where they belong.

In closing, we ask you Mr. Belick, to please reconsider your decision and do what is right, listen to the people that you service and keep WZBN as is.

Thank You,

J. Kevin Elmer

President, PBA Local #66